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DD/S REGISTER

FILE *OFM 2-2(EOP)*

1 SEP 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Computer Services
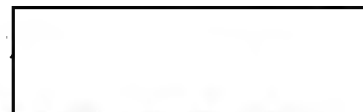
SUBJECT   : Automatic Language Processor

REFERENCE   : Memo dtd 15 Aug 66 to D/IS, C/DDP/SG, C/SSG,
                  EO/DD/S&T fr D/CS, same subj. (DD/S&T
                  #4186-66)

1. Last fall the former Director of Computer Services offered the Director of Medical Services the opportunity to participate in an experiment using the Automatic Language Processor to transcribe reports of psychiatric interview from stenograph tape to hard copy. The Office of Medical Services was pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this experiment and would be equally pleased to take advantage of whatever opportunity may exist for continuing the experimentation. In general, the system has worked well for our purposes and while we find that there is still a moderate percentage of error it is probably not greater than we would expect from an inexperienced typist.

2. On an average, we have about 40 reports a week which are collected at the rate of about four a day by the Office of Computer Services in the form of dictaphone tape. The reports are transcribed in your office from the dictaphone tape to stenograph tape and then processed by the Automatic Language Processor. We have no information about the cost to you for the time of the stenotypist or the ALP. We estimate, however, that this service saves us about one-half to two-thirds of a man-week each week for the time it would take a typist to transcribe directly from the dictaphone tape to typed copy. Considering the time of the stenotypist and the computer, I suspect that there is a significant cost advantage to the direct manual method of transcription. However, if the ALP service were to be discontinued it would certainly have a serious effect upon our ability to keep our workload current.

3. A canvass of other Support components has not developed any additional interest. The Office of Personnel has participated in some very limited experimentation with the Automatic Language Processor for transcription of stenograph notes. In this case, they used their own stenotypist who has not been specially trained for the ALP and they have found the system less than satisfactory for their purposes.

4. In short, while we would like to continue to participate in any experimentation and use the service in a rather limited way if you continue to offer it, we do not have a requirement which could be used to support a justification for retaining or acquiring an Automatic Language Processor.

STAT

Special Assistant to the
Deputy Director for Support

SA-DD/S:RHW:dek (1 Sept 66)
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